



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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News Release
For Immediate Release

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Bauer Introduces Faces of Those Served by Senior Meal Program

(Columbia, SC -- March 5, 2008) Lt. Governor André Bauer introduced two of the 5,400 people benefiting from a senior meals program to a large gathering of legislators and advocates on the State House grounds Wednesday, following the AARP SC's annual legislative luncheon.

The importance of permanently funding the senior meals program was stressed by two women, who told their stories to Senators Jake Knotts and Yancey McGill and Representative Jerry Govan Jr. and dozens of senior advocates.

"The House begins the budget debate next week, and the senior meal program will be on the agenda. Funding for this program needs to be permanent," Lt. Governor Bauer said.

Linda Davis of Orangeburg explained how the program helped keep her in her home after a fall caused her to break both wrists, saving her dignity and thousands of tax dollars that would have been required if she had been admitted to a skilled care facility.

"After I broke both wrists, it looked like I would either go into a nursing home or die," Davis said. "I was depressed, scared to death and I didn't know what to do, then the Orangeburg Council of Aging people told me about this program. The person who brought me my meals was wonderful, it kept me going during a really hard time," explained Davis. Once she was able to care for herself again, she asked that her place in the program be given to another person in greater need.

Kim Moore of Chester shared how the home-delivered meal program gives her peace of mind after her mother was admitted to the hospital. With her mother in a rehabilitation center in Columbia, and two teenagers to raise on top of her job with the Chester County School District, knowing that her father would be receiving a hot meal each day was a great relief.

"This program has been a lifesaver for my family, and I'm sure there are thousands of others who feel the same way," Moore said.

"I was alarmed at the number of news stories about the senior meal program being cut due to budget issues. I decided that this was the issue to climb on the soapbox about. Our elected officials

must get the message that our senior citizens need and deserve these meals and this option for the future,” continued Moore.

Funding for the program, which was developed and fielded in less than a year’s time, will end June 30 – unless next year’s budget includes permanent funding for the 5,476 seniors that receive home delivered meals and other important services designed to help them remain independently in their homes.

“The seniors of our state made it what it is today, they gave us our future. What you see here today are the faces served by senior meals. The average cost of hospitalization for a senior is nearly \$25,000 versus \$500 for meals that can keep them out of the emergency rooms,” said Bauer.

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